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ARTICLES

OF

FAITH AND GOVERNMENT,

AND

COVENANT,

ADOPTED BY THE

(2)
Congregational Church,

IN

(1)
PLYMOUTH, *M.H.*

1830.

CONCORD:

PRINTED BY HOAG AND ATWOOD.

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MEMORANDA.

Charter of Plymouth was granted, July 15, 1763.

The first settlement began in August, 1763.

Rev. Nathan Ward received a call to settle, July 9, 1764.

The church was organized at Hollis, in 1765, before the ordination of Mr. Ward, which took place at Newburyport, July 10, 1765.

The town of Plymouth was incorporated in 1766.

There was a revival of religion in 1767, and about 20 were added to the Church within a year.

There was a revival in 1790.

The pastoral relation between the Rev. Nathan Ward and the Church, was dissolved, at his request, January 4, 1798.

Rev. Drury Fairbank was ordained, Jan. 8, 1800. He asked a dismissal, Feb. 1, 1818, and, on the 18th day of March, 1818, was regularly dismissed by an Ecclesiastical Council.

The same year, (1818,) the Rev. Jonathan Ward was hired to supply the Desk, and continued his watchful care over the Church and Society, till September, 20, 1829.

Rev. George Punchard was ordained, March 11, 1830.

This Church, with the exception of a few sabbaths, has been favored with the public ministration of the gospel, from its first organization; and additions have been made to it from time to time.

ARTICLES, &c.

I.

WE believe that the Bible is the word of God, given by divine inspiration, and the only infallible rule of christian faith and practice.

II.

We believe there is only one living and true God(a), subsisting in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost(b).

(a) Deut. 6: 4. (b) Matth. 28: 19. 2 Cor. 13: 14.

III.

We believe that God maintains a righteous government over the universe, "working all things after the council of his own will."

Job, 14: 5. Isaiah, 46: 9—11. Jer. 10: 13. Matth. 10: 29, 30. Acts, 13: 48. Romans, 9: 1—25. Eph. 1: 3, 4. 2 Thess. 2: 13. 2 Tim. 1: 9.

IV.

We believe that man has fallen from the state of perfection in which he was originally created(a); and that now, all men by nature are destitute of holiness and prone to sin(b); and that they must be born again or never enter the kingdom of God(c).

(a) Gen. 1: 26, 27. Ecc. 7: 29. (b) Ps. 14: 2, 3. Ecc. 7: 20. 8: 11. Rom. 3: 9. (c) John, 1: 12, 13. 3: 1—7.

V.

We believe that regeneration is effected by the agency of the Holy Spirit.

John, 1: 13. John, 3: 5, 6, 8. Gal. 4: 29.

VI.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God (a) and man(b), has, by his death, made an atonement for sin(c); and that all are invited to come to Him and receive salvation freely; (d) and that nothing but the sinful opposi-

ALLEGATIONS

The following are the allegations made by the
State against the Government and the
Government against the State.

II

We believe that the Government has
been guilty of the following crimes:
1. It has been guilty of the crime of
murder.

III

We believe that the Government has
been guilty of the following crimes:
1. It has been guilty of the crime of
murder.

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VI

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been guilty of the following crimes:
1. It has been guilty of the crime of
murder.

tion of the heart prevents man from complying with this gracious invitation(e).

(a) John, 1: 1—3. Acts 7: 59. Heb. 1: 6, 8, 10. (b) Isaiah, 53: 3. 1 Tim. 2: 5.—3: 16. (c) Is. 53: 1—9. Matth. 26: 23. 1 Cor. 15: 3. (d) Matth. 11: 23. John, 3: 14, 15. 1 John, 2: 2. (e) John, 3: 19. 5: 40.

VII.

We believe that God has covenanted to bring all the elect or chosen to his heavenly kingdom(a); but that none should expect to arrive there, except by a life of faith in Christ and obedience to his commands(b).

(a) Job, 17: 9. Ps. 37: 23. Prov. 4: 18. John, 5: 24. 6: 37, 39, 40. 10: 26—29. Phil. 1: 6. (b) Matth. 7: 21. 24: 13. James, 2: 14—26. Rev. 2: 10.

VIII.

We believe there will be a general resurrection (a) and a future judgment (b) when the righteous will be received to everlasting blessedness and the wicked consigned to endless misery(c).

(a) Acts, 26: 8. 1 Cor. 15: 12—17. 2 Cor. 1: 9. Rev. 20: 12, 13. (b) Ecc. 3: 17. 12: 14. Acts 17: 31. (c) Ps. 9: 17. Matth. 13: 36—43. Matth. 25: 31—46. Luke 16: 19—24. Rom. 2: 2—10.

ARTICLES OF GOVERNMENT AND PRACTICE.

I.

We believe the Christian Sabbath to be a Divine Institution, & promise to regard it as such.

II.

We believe that Public Worship is of Divine appointment, and we promise not to forsake the assembling ourselves together, as the manner of some is, so long as God shall give us suitable health and opportunity.

III.

We believe that God hath appointed the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Sup-

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per, to be observed by his Church to the end of the world.

IV.

We believe that adult believers, who have not been baptized, and the children of professing believers are the only proper subjects of baptism, and we promise to act in accordance with this belief.

V.

We promise to maintain daily secret devotion, and such of us as are heads of families, family worship.*

* By which is meant, reading a portion of God's word, morning and evening, and uniting with our families in prayer.

VI.

The members of this Church agree to abstain entirely from the use of ardent spirits, except as a medicine, in case of bodily infirmity.

VII.

All light and foolish talking and jesting, and all evil-speaking, are condemned in the word of God, and we promise carefully and watchfully to avoid these sins.

VIII.

No member of this Church shall bring a complaint against another, before the church, until the private steps to convince and reclaim him have been taken. Matth. 18 : 15—17.

IX.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be attended, (extraordinaries excepted,) the first Sabbath in every other month, beginning with July.

X.

Candidates for admission to this Church

shall stand propounded, (extraordinaries excepted,) two Sabbaths previous to admittance.

XI.

There shall be a Committee of three, chosen to examine any individuals who may wish to unite with this Church previous to their coming before the whole Church, and to propose to the Church those only who are thought fit subjects for its communion.

XII.

An excommunicated person shall not be restored but upon a public confession of his sin, and a profession of repentance and reformation.

XIII.

There shall be a regular Church meeting once in two months, time to be specified by the pastor, as circumstances may require.

XIV.

As members of this Church, we promise to watch over each other with care and tenderness, and to admonish, reprove, and discipline those who trespass.

XV.

Every candidate for admission to this Church, after being examined and accepted by the Church, shall, before admission, subscribe to the foregoing articles.

COVENANT.

You do now, in the presence of Almighty God, his holy Angels and this Assembly, solemnly dedicate yourselves to God the FATHER, as your chief good ; to the SON of GOD, as your Mediator and Head ; and to the HOLY SPIRIT, as your Sanctifier, Comforter, and Guide. To this ONE GOD, FATHER, SON, and

will find themselves in a position to
 (1) to be able to do so.

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 and a number of things which will be
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CONCLUSION

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HOLY GHOST, you do heartily give up yourselves in an everlasting Covenant, to love and serve Him. Having subscribed the Articles of Faith and Government, adopted by this Church, you promise to walk with us in conformity to them, in submission to all the orders of the Gospel, and in attendance on all its ordinances, and that, by the assistance of the Divine Spirit, you will adorn your profession by a holy and blameless life. This you severally profess and engage? In consequence of these professions and engagements, We* affectionately receive you as members of this Church, and, in the name of CHRIST, declare you entitled to all its visible privileges. And now, beloved in the LORD, let it be impressed on your minds that you have entered into solemn circumstances, from which you can never escape. Wherever you go, these vows will be upon you;—they will follow you to the bar of God; and, in whatever world you are fixed, will abide upon you to eternity. If you walk worthy of your profession, you will be a credit and a comfort to us; but if it be otherwise, you will be to us a grief of heart and a vexation:—and if there be a woe pronounced upon him who offends one of CHRIST's little ones, *woe, woe* to the person who offends a whole Church. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. May the LORD preserve and guide you till death, and at last receive you and us to that blessed world where our love and joy shall be forever perfect. Amen.

* The Church will rise.

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, 1830.

Punchard George	Hull Nathaniel	Russell Lucy
Aiken Anna	Hobart Abigail	Reed Joseph
Bartlett Eben'r, jr.	Huntoon Celia	Rogers Betsey
Bartlett Martha	Hobart Vashiti	Rogers Polly
Baker Amos	Hobart Peter	Sanborn Abraham
Baker Lydia B.	Hull Zilpha	Sanborn Hannah
Bailey John	Johnson Lydia	Sanborn Clarissa
Cummings Jona.	Ladd Thankful	Sterns Judith
Cummings Ruth	Lowd Mary	Shattuck Rebekah
Cummings Hannah	M'Queston Judith	Stafford George L.
Cummings Sally	M'Queston Abigail	Stafford Joseph C.
Cummings Mahala	M'Queston Alvah	Stafford Lydia
Cass Benjamin	Morrison James	Stafford Laura
Cass Nancy	Morrison Miriam	Thurlo Sarah
Cass Belinda	Morrison Hannah	Thompson Eliza-
Church Lydia C.	Morrison Sarah	beth
Chandler Mary	Morrison Miriam J.	Thompson Mar-
Dearborn Joseph	Morrison Betsey	tha L.
Dearborn Edward	Miller James	Willoughby John
Dearborn Julia A.	Miller Miriam	Willoughby Jonas
Dearborn Sepbro.	Merrill Enoch	Willoughby Abner
Emerson Eliza	Merrill Jacob	Willoughby Wm.
Emerson Maria	Merrill David	Willoughby Prud.
Emerson Amy	Merrill Mehitable	Willoughby Hephz.
Emerson Sarah	Merrill Betsey	Worcester Hannah
Emerson Lucy	Melvin Polly	Wheeler Hannah
Emerson Daniel	Morse Mehitable	Wheeler Mary
Edmonds Benjamin	Marsh Aurelia	Webster Eliphalet
Farnum Elizabeth	Noyes Crisp B.	Webster David C.
Flanders Abigail	Noyes Benjamin	Webster Lydia
Flanders Susan	Noyes Harriot	Webster Elizabeth
Furgerson Sarah	Noyes Mary	Webster Caroline
Farrand Caroline	Norris Samuel S.	Webster Sarah
George David	Norris Ann M.	Ward John
George Leonard	Piper Elbridge G.	Ward Moses
George Moses	Punchard William-	Ward Enoch
George Sarah	ine	Ward Mary
George Susanna	Ramsay Thomas	Ward Mary
George Ruth	Ramsay Abigail	Ward Mary
George Mary	Robie Fred. W. A.	Ward Polly
Goodhue Polly	Robbins Asa	Ward Polly
Grant Mary	Robbins Rebekah	Ward Deborah
Green William	Russell Moore	Ward Lydia
Green Harriot K.	Russell Betsey	Ward Abigail
Hazletine James	Russell Wm. W.	Ward Prudence H.
Hazletine David	Russell Moses	

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